

wrapping up, would perish from an exposure that would not hurt our white birds.

What is certain is that the temperature of the tips of the bills of many birds, both in hard weather and when flying at considerable altitudes, must not infrequently fall considerably below 32° Fahrenheit.

XIV.—*Obituary.*

(Plate VI.)

WE regret that we have to add three more names of Members of the Union who have given up their lives for their country :—Capt. F. C. Selous, Capt. Lord Lucas, and Commdr. The Hon. R. O. B. Bridgeman. With those already recorded, namely, Lieut. K. F. Meiklejohn, Capt. Lord Brabourne, Lieut. C. M. Dyer, Lieut. R. B. Woosnam, Capt. the Hon. Gerald Legge, Major C. H. T. Whitehead, Capt. E. F. Penn, Col. C. Stonham, Col. H. H. Harington, Lt.-Col. B. R. Horsburgh, Capt. J. M. Charlton, and Capt. J. C. Crowley, our roll of honour now contains the names of fifteen Members of the Union.

FREDERICK COURTENAY SELOUS. (Plate VI.)

The tragic news of the death in action of Capt. Selous, D.S.O., in East Africa on January 4 last was universally received in all English-speaking countries with a deep sense of loss and with a feeling of intense admiration for one who, at the age of sixty-four, insisted, and rightly so, on his fitness to take up arms for his country. Joining the 25th Service Battalion of the Royal Fusileers (known as the Frontiersmen), he was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in February 1915 and became Captain the following August. He proceeded to East Africa and served under General Smuts. In September last year he was mentioned in dispatches, and was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his invaluable services.

Selous was born in London on December 31, 1851, of



Monroe Cross Waiford

Weston Photo.

Frederick Courtenay Selous.

mixed French and English parentage. He was educated at Rugby and subsequently on the Continent. In 1870 he embarked for the Cape with £400 in his pocket to earn his living as a professional elephant hunter, and from that date until 1890 he wandered about the then unknown territories between the Transvaal and the Zambesi, shooting elephants, and also procuring many of the splendid examples of the big-game animals of South Africa for the South African Museum at Cape Town and for the Natural History Museum in London. In 1890 he entered the service of the Chartered Company and led the pioneers on their expedition from Tuli to Fort Salisbury, which inaugurated the settlement of what is now Southern Rhodesia.

Shortly after this he settled in England, at Worplesdon in Surrey, where he built a Museum for his numerous trophies; but his activities as a hunter had by no means ended, as he subsequently made many hunting trips to Asia Minor, North America, and to British East Africa and the Upper Nile.

His books on hunting and travel are well known to every one and are classics. 'A Hunter's Wanderings in Africa,' in 1881, was succeeded by 'Travel and Adventure in South East Africa,' 1893, and 'Sunshine and Storm in Rhodesia,' 1896. Accounts of his later experiences will be found in 'Sport and Travel East and West' and 'African Nature Notes and Reminiscences.'

Selous was not only a hunter, he was a keen observer, and his indefatigable patience and retentive memory combined to make him a field-naturalist of exceptional excellence. He was as much interested in birds and their eggs as in big game, and had a fine collection of eggs at Worplesdon, nearly all obtained by himself on his numerous expeditions. He became a Member of the Union in 1899, and was a regular attendant at the meetings of the Club and frequently took part in the discussions, and occasionally himself exhibited some of his nests and eggs.

To his friends Selous will always remain an inspiring memory. His simplicity and candour, his entire absence of

self-seeking and transparent honesty, all appealed to even a comparative stranger. Physically he was a magnificent example of a "hard" man; he was beautifully proportioned, with a chest of extraordinary depth and breadth, and he is described as the best white runner that Matabele had ever seen. Even in the recent campaign he enjoyed perfect health, and was the only officer of his party not laid aside by illness. Thoroughly inured to hardship, he withstood the rigours of the campaign better than men less than half his age.

Selous married in the nineties Marie Catherine Gladys, a daughter of Canon Maddy of Down Hatherley, Gloucestershire, who survives him with two sons—the elder now serving in the Royal Flying Corps, the younger about to enter Sandhurst.

At a meeting of the British Ornithologists' Club on January 17 a proposal was made and unanimously carried that the B. O. U. should co-operate with other Societies to form a committee to promote a national memorial to Capt. Selous. Further details of this matter will be found on p. 280.

AUBERON THOMAS HERBERT, BARON LUCAS
AND DINGWALL.

Captain The Lord Lucas was reported as missing after making a flight over the German lines on November 4, 1916, and has since been officially returned as killed.

The only surviving son of the Hon. Auberon Herbert, of the Old House, Ringwood, and of Lady Florence Annabel, daughter of the 6th Earl Cowper, Auberon Thomas Herbert was born in 1876, and was educated at Bedford Grammar School and Balliol College, Oxford. In 1905 he succeeded his maternal uncle, the 7th Earl Cowper, as the 8th Baron Lucas and the 5th Baron Dingwall, the earldom becoming extinct with the death of his uncle. He rowed for two years in the Oxford boat, and held several Under-Secretaryships in the late Liberal government, culminating in the Presidency of the Board of Agriculture, to which he was appointed

in 1914 and which he resigned on the formation of the Coalition government in May 1915.

During the Boer War he served as a special correspondent of 'The Times,' and was wounded in the leg, which had to be amputated below the knee. Notwithstanding this disability he retained his great activity, both in walking and riding, and no one would have ever guessed that he had lost one of his limbs if they had seen him out shooting.

Although precluded by his disability and his age, which was over forty, Lord Lucas on leaving the Government entered the Royal Flying Corps, and he soon became a most expert flyer and pilot and made his mark in this as in most other matters.

Lord Lucas was devoted to birds and to all living things. His recreation is stated in 'Who's Who' to be ornithology. He was elected a Member of the Union in 1902.

Some years ago Lord Lucas, Viscount Grey, the Hon. E. S. Montagu, and Mr. B. Russell, all keenly interested in bird-life, acquired an estate in the "broads" district of Norfolk, in order to provide protection for the rarer kinds of birds. This property, known as the Whiteslea Estate, is situated in the parishes of Hickling and Catfield, and comprises some 3000 acres.

Special precautions are taken to protect any rare birds breeding on the property, and a log-book is kept by the head-keeper in which he records all his observations. The active management of the estate was in the hands of Lord Lucas, and he spent a good deal of time at Whiteslea Lodge with Viscount Grey and his other friends. We understand that under Lord Lucas's will his interest in this protected area is bequeathed to the Hon. Ino Grenfell.

Lord Lucas was unmarried, and is succeeded in his titles by his sister the Hon. Nan Ino Herbert.

RICHARD ORLANDO BEACONSFIELD BRIDGEMAN.

Commander The Hon. Richard O. B. Bridgeman, R.N., D.S.O., who was reported killed while flying in East Africa

early in January of this year, is the first naval officer among our members whose death we have to deplore.

Born in 1879 he was the second son of the 4th Earl of Bradford and the brother of the present Peer, who is himself at the front, as well as a younger brother, Major The Hon. H. G. O. Bridgeman, R.H.A. Richard Bridgeman entered the Navy and served in various parts of the world, including the China Station and the Cape Station where he was during the South African war. In 1911 he was the naval officer appointed to accompany the King during his State visit to India. He was 1st Lieut. of the 'Medina' and commanded the naval guard at the Delhi Durbar. On his return home he was promoted Commander. In June 1914 he was appointed Flag Commander to the Commander-in-Chief of the Cape Station, and he subsequently took part in the naval operations on the East African coast. He was awarded the D.S.O. for his gallant conduct during the attack on Tanga Harbour, and he also was present at the destruction of the German cruiser 'Königsberg,' where he had a narrow escape—a bullet passing through his cap.

He had also had his share of the military campaign in German East Africa, where he was employed as "liaison" officer between the Commander-in-Chief of the naval forces and General Smuts, and frequently acted as observer in aerial reconnaissances, during one of which he was unfortunately killed.

Commander Bridgeman was a typical British sailor and a great favourite. He was a very keen sportsman and a good shot, and it was this that led him to interest himself in birds. During his earlier period of service on the Cape Station he did a good deal of collecting and was a frequent visitor to the South African Museum in order to name his specimens and acquire information. He had a great gift for painting in water-colours and made life-like studies of the birds he came across. He became a member of the Union in 1902, but did not, so far as we are aware, write on ornithology.

RICHARD JAMES BALSTON.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. R. J. Balston, of Springfield near Maidstone, which took place on 7 December, 1916; he had been a Member of the Union since 1889.

Mr. Balston, who was the eldest son of Richard E. P. Balston, was born at Maidstone 5 March, 1839, and was educated at Eton. Entering the family business of paper manufacturers, he was the head of the firm at his death, and was well known as the originator of the celebrated "Whatman" paper. He was a yachtsman and a sportsman, and took great interest in agriculture and other county interests, and served as High Sheriff of Kent in 1894.

He collaborated with Mr. E. Bartlett and Mr. C. W. Shepherd in the preparation of a work on the birds of Kent, which was published by Porter in 1907 and was reviewed in our pages the following year ('Ibis,' 1908, p. 175), and this, so far as we are aware, was his sole venture in ornithological writing.

Four years ago Mr. Balston presented to the Natural History Museum at South Kensington a fine collection of Humming-birds mounted for exhibition in cases. These are now placed in the long passage running the length of the Bird-gallery and giving access to the Reptile, Fish, and Invertebrate exhibition-galleries of the Museum.

THOMAS HUDSON NELSON.

By the death of Mr. Nelson, on 5 November last, Yorkshire lost one of her foremost naturalists and the British Ornithologists' Union a worthy member. Mr. Nelson was born on 12 February, 1856, at Bishop Auckland in the County of Durham (where his father was a prominent citizen) and was elected a member of the Union in 1882. He was of a singularly amiable disposition, and a most excellent friend; and he will be greatly missed by a large circle of friends, to whom his death came as a surprise, though he had long been in a delicate state of health. As an ornithologist, he was best known as the author of 'The Birds of Yorkshire,' a work of great merit and one

of the best books of its kind that has ever appeared. This work was commenced by Dr. Eagle Clarke, who had to abandon it on his translation to Edinburgh in 1888. At Eagle Clarke's recommendation, the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, in whose Transactions the work was appearing, selected Mr. Nelson to continue it. Eagle Clarke rendered his friend valuable assistance by handing over to him the whole of his collected information upon the subject, and also by acting as adviser during the progress of the book. Mr. Nelson's other contributions to our favourite science were more or less of a local nature, and related to observations of the bird-life of the Redear district, in which he spent the greater part of his life as a man of independent means. He was an active member of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, and was for some years President of the section of Vertebrate Zoology of that Society and an Assistant Editor of its journal, 'The Naturalist.' In recognition of his contributions to the ornithology of Yorkshire he recently received the honorary degree of Master of Science at the hands of the Leeds University. He was also a Justice of the Peace for the North Riding of Yorkshire.

EDGAR ALEXANDER MEARNS.

From the pages of the 'Auk' we learn with regret that Dr. Mearns, well known for his writings on African birds, died at Washington, D.C., on 1 November, 1916.

Born at Highland Falls, N.Y., in 1856, Dr. Mearns graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons (Columbia University) in 1881. Two years later he was appointed First Lieutenant and Assistant-Surgeon in the Medical Corps of the United States Army, and he remained on active service for twenty-five years, retiring with the rank of Lieut.-Colonel in 1909.

During his period of service he was stationed for some time in Arizona and took part in the work of the Mexican Boundary Commission in 1892-94. He also saw service in the Philippines. He published several papers on the birds of both these regions.

In 1909 Dr. Mearns accompanied Col. Roosevelt on his expedition to British East Africa and Uganda, and in 1911-12 he visited Abyssinia as field-naturalist of the Childs-Frick African Expedition. Since his return from Africa he has been engaged in working up his African collections at the United States National Museum at Washington. He had already published a number of papers on the most interesting novelties which he found among the birds, and at the time of his death was preparing a comprehensive report on the birds obtained in Africa. It is much to be hoped that this work is in a sufficiently advanced state to enable it to be completed and published.

Dr. Mearns was an enthusiastic all-round naturalist. An indefatigable collector, he also had the ability and desire to work out his own collections. He was a Founder (an original member) of the American Ornithologists' Union, and his death is a great loss to American Ornithology.

FOSTER ELLENBOROUGH LASCELLES BEAL.

The 'Auk' for January also announces the sudden death of Prof. Beal at his home in Maryland on 1 October, 1916, in his 77th year. He was a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, and well known for his many researches into the food-habits of American birds.

Born at South Groton in Massachusetts in 1840, his early life was spent on a farm; but he was determined to acquire an education, and graduated at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1872. He held various teaching posts until 1892, when he was appointed to the service of the Biological Survey in connection with the Agricultural Department at Washington. He continued in this employment until he died, and prepared either wholly or in part some twenty-four official publications besides numerous other scientific articles, almost all in connection with his researches into the food-habits of birds. He was one of the originators of the present system of the examination and analysis of the contents of stomachs and crops, and played an important part in the building up of the existing system of laws for the protection of American birds.